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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

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The Post Office Curtailment

Public concern was deeply aroused over the recent curtailment in post office service, and it appears that the mass of public opinion is not a happy result for the Department. Most frequently heard comment was that it was strange that Uncle Sam has unending billions to hand out as gifts to any and all foreign countries, yet can not operate such an important domestic service as carrying the mails. Rural residents who go from Friday to Monday without mail service were most concerned, but many business firms suffered appreciable losses.

It must be conceded, however, that you get a tremendous bargain when a letter or card or paper is delivered for you at any point in this large country for only a few pennies. Surely, there are few bargains comparable to this. But the sheer volume of mail in this country, and the routine efficiency and dependability with which it has been handled, has often led us to take the service "for granted." In a period of rising costs, it has not been easy to keep any sort of a budget in balance. But this fact, which we accept as fact, does not relieve the postal department from the responsibility of paying its expenditures so as to maintain basic mail deliveries. One way or another, the public will demand that the mails go through on schedule.

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Dating Easter

Easter is the happiest of the ecclesiastical observances during the year. This is natural, in that Easter commemorates the Resurrection.

But for many years there were differences of opinion on the proper date for the observance of the Resurrection. It was finally decided that the date should be the Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox.

Since the Vernal Equinox occurs on March 20th, 21st or 22nd, the date of Easter shifts with the cycles of the moon, the moon completing its own cycle every twenty-nine days.

This allows Easter to fall on various dates between Mard 22nd and April 25th. This year Easter falls late, on the 21st of April, almoet a month later than is sometimes the case.

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Limiting Income Taxes

Thirty-two states, with Idaho being the most recent, have adopted resolutions calling upon Congress to limit income taxes. The resolutions ask Congress to submit a Constitutional amendment to the states which would draft such an amendment.

With community, county and state taxes taking increasing bites out of the average citizen's income, there is a real need for a limit on Federal income taxes. If we are ever to have economy in the operation of our government, the government will have to be limited to some percentage in taxing its citizens.

In our opinion, any amendment to the constitution which is passed should allow the Congress, in emergency, to relmpose the no-limit taxation authority it now enjoys.

There are various proposals as to the kind of limit which would be set. One proposal would reduce the percentage in all brackets, allowing the government to tax the largest earners up to sixty per cent, as an example, but limiting them to perhaps fifteen per cent in the lowest income bracket.

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The Fast Pace

As some specialists have suspected for some time, more and more evidence is pointing to the conclusion that stresses and tensions of modern life make some men and women sterile. Dr. Robert N. Creadick, of Duke University, said recently at a meeting of the American Academy of General Practice, that the medical profession is now engaged in a study of psychological factors in sterility which is a major part of scientific effort to help some couples.

Although Dr. Creadick noted that sterility was usually due to physical causes, some of which could be detected and corrected, he estimates that emotional stresses sometimes act through a brain center and cause sterility.

Dr. Gleadick's report, in St. Louis, is another indication of the cost of the fast pace of life in the United States. The rat-race for the dollar, and the effort of keeping up with the Joneses, has cost America heavily.

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A sign of wisdom is one's willingness to listen and learn.

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International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Matthew 27:55 to 28:20
Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 15:12-20

God's D-Day

Lesson for April 21, 1957

ONE OF the most famous of Easter hymns begins: "The strife is o'er, the battle done, The Victory of life is won . . ." Among the many true meanings of Christ's death and resurrection is this: Christ has conquered sin and death. All that death and sin could do to him, was done; yet he "rose a victor o'er the dark domain," as another familiar hymn goes. The last word of Jesus to his disciples, as Matthew reports it, begins —"All authority has been given me . . ." Easter is not a season for puzzles; and yet all this does raise a question in the minds of both Christians and unbelievers. If it is true that Christ has won for us the victory over sin and death, if it is true that it is He who has the true authority over man and history, how is it that the world racks along in such a slow, painful, frustrated sort of way? Looking at a slum, or a battlefield, or a cemetery, or a jail, looking at life as it is lived on this planet, would we guess that God had won a tremendous victory over the powers of evil?

Dr. Foreman

D-Day Is Not V-Day

A theologian of our time, Oscar Cullman has given an answer to this in the simplest terms. We live, he says, in the interval, so to speak, between D-Day and V-Day. All who can remember back to June 6, 1944, remember the tremendous victory of that hard-fought D-Day. But the war went on for nearly a year after that. Was D-Day, then, a failure? By no means. With D-Day the war was virtually won. The enemy had little chance, after that; but it took a lot of fighting, and some of it, like the Battle of the Bulge, costly and disheartening. So we are living, in the time between Christ's ascension and his coming again in glory, as it were between D-Day and V-Day.

What God Has Done

What has been accomplished by God's D-Day? One thing is, that God's power has been shown, once and for all. Over and over in the New Testament, especially in the letters of Paul, the power with which God raised Christ from the dead is called the same power that works in Christians. The victory over sin and death which we see in Christ, can be the hope and to an increasing degree the experience of our own lives. There really is a difference between living in the world before Christ and after. All that Christ was and did and said, climaxed by the resurrection, are ever before our minds if we only think. Before Christ, no one on earth really know what God could do. Since Christ, men of faith do know. The other achievement of D-Day's victory is, for us, sharing in God's certainty of victory which finally shall be complete. One of the easiest and subtlest temptations into which we can fall is to wonder whether God may not at last be overwhelmed by a universe which he created but cannot now control. Realizing what D-Day means, we need never have such fears.

What We Must Do

Calvary and Easter have practical messages for the Christian. They are not mere admiration-days, when we can sing happily about what God has done. They are challenge-d ys calling us to thought, attitude, action, as befits children of the mighty God. As for death, we can see clear through it. Christ has shown us the glory on the other side. As for sin, Christ bore our sins with Him "to the tree" as Peter said. The power that wrought in Him is available for us in our struggles against evil. But there is something more than this. John Baillie speaks of our era, between the time of Jesus and the end of time, as "the years of grace," that the great task of Christians is just the very thing which Matthew leaves with his readers as the climax of his story of Christ. "All authority has been given me . . . therefore—(sit down and be at ease? wait quietly for the end? spend your time singing my praises? no, none of these.)—therefore GO, and Make Disciples." The going, winning Christian is the one in whom the victory of Easter moves on toward final triumph.

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Washington Notes

EUROPEAN FEDERATION

Statesmen of six West European nations recently signed the birth certificate of the European Federation. They endorsed, in Rome, treaties for a common European market and the pooling of atomic-energy development.

SECRECY STANDARDS

The White House has refused to withdraw an order of President Eisenhower's fixing secrecy standards for Government information. A presidential aide notified editors that the 1953 directive gives "the minimum protection necessary to the defense interests of the nation."

AMBASSADORS

The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee has notified the State Department that it will insist on "first rate ambassadors in every post." The committee said the Government can no longer afford to give way to political "pressure" in the selection of ambassadors.

FOREIGN AID

The United States foreign-aid program last year cost every man, and child in this county $23.07. There is strong sentiment in Congress for cutting this aid program this year, with some arguing that the program hasn't attained its goals. Others say the present approach is outdated, and that the aid should be in the form of loans and technical assistance.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Retail trade of the nation is holding just about level with last year—department store sales, for example, are a slim 1 per cent above 1956. Personal incomes stay about the same, with higher pay for some cancelling out shorter work weeks for others. Employment gains in some segments of the economy have topped layoffs in an increasing number of factories, consumer spending thus stays high overall, even if it has disappointed some merchants by not continuing to rise.

COTTON TRADE

Indications now are that efforts to recover the "historical share" of the world market cotton growers are success. Cotton exp twelve months, ending exceed 7,000,000 bale be the highest for an 1933-34, when they 7,462,000 bales. Since 1956, cotton exports five times as great as fore, and the export no signs of diminishing

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FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

Nematode Problems in Tobacco

Problem of Nematodes represents the most serious and widespread disease of tobacco in Appomattox County. Nematodes are worm-like creatures that live in soil and attack the root system of the tobacco plant. Three are found in the county: (1) Root (found so far only in tobacco); (2) Meadow; (3) Stem. The latter two have been on several dark-fired farms. They are believed to be prevalent on dry farms but have not been verified.

Heavy infestations result in failing to make normal crops. Yet, the conditions can be controlled with fumigants. Demonstrations that acre value can be increased from $150.00 to $400.00 are made through the use of control.

County agent would like to see farmers who have some of these demonstration purposes. Interested farmers should see the agent as these materials will be put down 14 days before planting.

Corn Fertilization

Leading dairymen are turning to Dairy Herd Improvement Association to help them meet the economic situation in dairying. That it pays is shown by the fact that even with the increased costs of production last year, the average dairyman whose herd is enrolled in the DHIA program realized a greater profit on each individual cow than he did the year before. Even though there was an average drop of 4 cents per 100 pounds of milk sold in 1956 compared to 1955, and the labor bill was higher, the DHIA dairyman showed an increased profit.

This was made possible because the average DHIA herd improved enough to counteract the unfavorable price changes. Each DHIA cow produced 9,030 pounds of milk in 1956 compared to the Virginia average of 5,220 pounds for all dairy cows.

Research has shown that a cow producing 8,000 lbs of milk is worth two or more cows producing 5,000 pounds each. A cow does not begin to show any real profit until she has produced at least 5,000 pounds of milk. Most Virginia cows would be right around the break - even point.

34 Grade A producers and 75 producers of manufacturing milk in Appomattox County are without production records.

The principles of DHIA: sound feeding, good culling and wise breeding—have proved sound in every area of Virginia. The program is available to every dairyman at a reasonable cost.

Corn Fertilization

Nitrogen is the most important consideration in fertilizing corn. Attention should be given to potash and phosphorus. Soil productivity, soil fertility and the yield that is desired. Results of soil fertility and the rate of fertilizer applied, high yields are not generally obtained on soils that have either limitations of shallowness, or a high water table.

Recommendations of corn should provide approximately 1.4 pounds available nitrogen, .5 pounds available phosphoric acid and 1.3 pounds of potash for each bushel of yield expected or desired. Provided this fertilizer this would result in approximately 1,000 pounds of 8-10 or equivalent for a 75 bushel corn yield. Where a good rotation program has been followed part of the requirements for nitrogen may be expected from the soil and fertility (particularly phosphoric acid), and from decomposed plant residue and cover crop nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash).

Total fertilizer recommendations are for 600 to 800 lbs of 10-10-10 or equivalent, 100 pounds of additional nitrogen at a lower rate could be expected to give a good yield on soils low to very high fertility, but would result in lowering of soil fertility level. An intermediate rate of application could be used on soils of medium to high fertility and a high rate on soils low to medium fertility. However, if the desire is to produce a good yield of corn, as well as to build soil fertility, a high rate of application of fertilizer should be used.

Are Dairy Farmers 'Over-Invested?'

Are dairy farmers "over-invested?" And is a reappraisal in order of the specifications relating to buildings, equipment, and practices?

A study of a group of Grade A dairy farms in Illinois showed the average investment per cow (in herds with 20 to 25 cows) was $617 at 1950 prices. With proper construction or remodeling, the buildings and equipment should have cost only $212 per cow.

On those dairy farms with 20 to 25 cows, dairy chores took about 119 man-hours per cow per year. With proper construction of the dairy plants, 67 man-hours per cow per year would do the job.

Record Keeping Important In Dairying

Record keeping is an important part of a successful dairy business, yet 95 per cent of the dairy cows in Appomattox County have no records kept on them.

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COMMENT ON SPORTS
By Pete Fritchie

Miami, Florida.- The row between Western and Florida Chambers of Commerce, and sports writers, over the prospective merits of the weather in Florida and Arizona cooked into a real stew this spring.

Four Major League clubs were out West and twelve in Florida. In addition, one American League club, the Red Sox, traveled West took over and play a few exhibition ball games. The Red Sox have been training in Sarasota, Florida, for many years.

The sports writers out West, especially one writing in The Sporting News, claimed this year their weather was better, and that next year the four clubs would be five. Florida supporters replied that one year means nothing and that the cold nights out West, whilh Florida does not have, caused a wholesale number of ailments among the players.

Florida had plenty of rain this year, more than some oldtimers ever remember having, but most of the Grapefruit League games were played and the weather, as usual, was warm. There was also plenty of sunshine.

Crowds attending exhibition games out West were good, particularly on the Coast, and Boston's series with San Francisco drew hefty gate receipts. That is also a factor to be considered in arguing the merits of the two locales.

In Florida, the baseball fan is usually elderly, and constitutes a restrained, polite audience. So long have the clubs been training in Florida that parks are plentiful and competition readily available. It would seem unlikely that the Sunshine State is in any immediate danger of losing out to Arizona or California, but as new training locations are discovered in the West, other Major League teams might well utilize them.

If Major League baseball moves to the West Coast, it might be logical to assume that a Western club would train nearer home than Florida. But all this is speculation. As far as 1957 is concerned, Florida lost on the rain count but won on the cold nights count.

March empolyment rose to 63,863,000, new record. Unemployment for the month fell to 2,882,000.

Play safe — drive carefully.

NEWS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Washington.- President Eisenhower has been the subject of much newspaper nonsense in recent weeks. The President has alienated some members of the working press just as he has alienated some Republican members of Congress by remaining aloof in matterso f personal concern to the newsmen and Congressmen.

His critics claim that the President isn't keeping up with the domestic scene in the United States, and is interested mainly in dreams about saving peace in the world. His supporters say the President is responsible for the fact that we are not now at war, and praise his domestic policies as having given the U. S. economy stability and balance.

But whoever is correct, the President's charmed relations with the press—appear to have ended. Most of the nation's editors probably still support the Chief Executive, but when stories about resignations, helicopters for golfing use, speed limit excesses, etc., begin hitting the front pages, it means that Washington's correspondents are getting browned off about something.

The reasons are hard to define in simple terms. The working press has long contained many members critical of the Eisenhower Administation. This inveterate independent gaggle of aggressive newsmen must be pampered to a certain degree by a President. Mr. Eisenhower still acts more like a general talking to troops, as far as many see him, than as a man talking to another man or woman.

Then, too, the Presiden has held himself personally aloof to a greater degree than did, for example, Harry Truman—who made a point of entertaining newsmen at the White House. Ike's press conferences have not been too numerous in recent times, either, what with all the travel, sickness, etc., reporters have encountered.

Mr. Eisenhower is greatly inclined to turn over most of the thinking on various phases of government activity to the experts. He hates to make decisions of an unpleasant nature. This is perhaps only normal but reporters are getting more critical, and more of them are giving vent to their reactions in their papers, as time passed.

It doesn't necessarily mean there has been any big change in Ike. But the President knows he will not run again and he can afford to let the newsmen bark a little, without fretting.

BOY KILLED STEALING WIRE

Omaha, Neb.- Otto Glaser, junk dealer, admitted to police that he and Donald Marsih, 17, went on a wire-selling foray. Glaser sent the boy up a pole to cut some "dead" wire away. On the pole, Donald reached for the wrong wre—it was a high-tension 8,000-volt power line. The boy's body tumbled to the ground. Panic-stricken, Glaser loaded the body into his small truck, drove to the Douglas County Home for the Aged, which he thought was a hospital, and dumped the body and a severed hand in the driveway and drove away.

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